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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /069 W
----------104735 240141Z /75
R 231026Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1273
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4864

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS NL
SUBJECT: SHIMON PERES SPEAKS OUT IN HOLLAND

1. ISRAELI LEADER SHIMON PERES, WHO VISITED THE NETHERLANDS SEPT 18-19, SPOKE OUT STRONGLY IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH DUTCH POLITICIANS, JOURNALISTS AND OFFICIALS. HE SOUNDED ESPECIALLY HARSH AT SMALL, PRIVATE MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE DUTCH SOCIALIST PARTY, HARRY VAN DER BERGH, BLUNTLY TELLING SELECT GATHERING OF DUTCH POLITICANS AND JOURNALISTS THAT ISRAEL HAD NO FRIENDS LEFT AND ASSERTING THAT THE DUTCH, LIKE OTHER WEST EUROPEANS, SIMPLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND ISRAELI PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO ONE PARTICIPANT, PERES HARSHLY BRUSHED ASIDE PROFESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FOR ISRAELI CAUSE BY TELLING HIS LISTENERS THAT ISRAEL STOOD ALONE. PERES'MANNER OF PRESENTATION MADE THOROUGH IMPRESSION ON THOSE WHO HEAR HIM.

2. PERES TOOK A SLIGHTLY MORE MODERATE LINE IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT. PERES SEEMED PREPARED TO ENVISAGE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS, BUT ON THE ISSUE OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK HIS POSITION WAS HARD. THOUGH CRITICAL OF US POLICY, IT WAS PLAIN FROM HIS PRESENTATION THAT THE US FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN
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HIS THINKING. HE LEFT VAN DER STOEL SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY STATING WITHOUT ELABORATION THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS AIMING HIGH AND THAT THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS AIMING HIGH. (IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW PERES IS REPORTED TO FAVOR STEP-BY-STEP POLICY RATHE THAN "ARCHITECTURAL APPROACH" OF CURRENT US ADMINISTRATION.) PERES ALSO SEVERELY CRITICIZED APPROACH OF THE NINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED

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AS "WEAK."

3. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT PERES USED BRIEF
SOJOURN HERE TO GOOD ADVANTAGE. HE MANAGED TO SEE KEY MEMBERS
OF DUTCH FOREIGN POLICY COMMUNITY AND PUT HIMSELF ACROSS
EFFECTIVELY. HIS VISIT, IN THE WAKE OF RECENT PRESENCE HERE OF
TWO PLO REPRESENTATIVES FROM PARIS WHO TALKED TO LOCAL
POLITICIANS, HELPED KEEP ISRAELI THINKING ON TOP OF
DUTCH MINDS.
MCCLOSKEY

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